

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2067

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

USDOC WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, GR

SUBJECT: AMERICA DAY AT THESSALONIKI FAIR

REF: IZMIR'S 271 AND 265

1. OBSERVANCE OF AMERICA DAY AT THESSALONIKI FAIR, SEPT 5, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THAT IN IZMIR (REFS). TRADITIONAL RECEPTION AT PAVILION WAS FOREGONE IN VIEW OF CURRENT RAMPANT ANTI-AMERICANISM. INSTEAD CONGEN GAVE SMALL LUNCHEON IN HIS RESIDENCE, ATTENDED BY PRES, VICE PRES AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAIR, GOG POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, PAO AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER FROM ATHENS, USDOC REP SLIWICKI, BPAO AND RANKING CONGEN PERSONNEL.

2. LUNCHEON PROVED AGREEABLE, CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE AFFAIR, WITH USEFUL EXCHANGES ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS FUTURE PROSPECTS AND ORIENTATION OF FAIR, PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THESSALONIKI AS COMMERCIAL HUB BETWEEN BALKANS AND MIDDLE EAST, AND TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN GREECE.

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3. CONGEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO FAIR DIRECTORATE FOR EXCELLENT COOPERATION US OFFICIALS HAD RECEIVED, VOICED HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR CONDITIONS WOULD PERMIT OBSERVANCE OF AMERICA DAY IN MORE CUSTOMARY FASHION, EXTENDED AMBASSADOR TASCA'S BEST WISHES AND EMPHASIZED HIS PARTICULAR DESIRE THAT US REMAIN IN FAIR WITH MAJOR PAVILION THIS YEAR, NOT ONLY AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED US INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER COMMERCIAL TIES WITH GREECE BUT, MORE SPECIFICALLY, OF STRONG US SUPPORT FOR GREECE'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY UNDER KARAMANLIS.

4. IN A WARM RESPONSE, FAIR PRESIDENT NIKOLAOS ZARDINIDIS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRECEDING REMARKS, SAID THAT FAIR COUNTS ON PRESENCE OF AMERICAN PAVILION, WHICH IS IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR PROMOTING OUR RELATIONS, AND OFFERED HIS COOPERATION TOWARD EVEN LARGER FUTURE US PARTICIPATION. HE STRESSED THAT GREEKS WOULD LIKE TO SEE DISPLAYED AT FUTURE FAIRS WIDER ARRAY OF NEW AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

5. DESPITE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, AND MASSIVE, EYE-CATCHING CHINESE EXHIBIT NEARBY, US GETTING GOOD PLAY IN ITS WELL-EXECUTED PAVILION WITH OVER 42,000 VISITORS CLOCKED THROUGH IN FIRST FIVE DAYS. CONGEN PLANS ANOTHER SMALL RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE FOR BUSINESSMEN AND LEADING US PARTICIPANTS SEPT 16.
BRENNAN

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